



United States Marine Corps
Lejeune Leadership Institute

LtGen John A. Lejeune: Tun Tavern Address



ADDRESS MADE BY MAJOR GENERAL K. LEJEUNE ON NOVEMBER 10, 1925,
AT THE UNVEILING OF THE TABLET PLACE ON THE SITE
OF THE OLD TUN TAVERN, PHILADELPHIA,
BY THE THOMAS ROBERTS REATH POST OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Little over two years ago, an inspiring ceremony took place in France. The occasion was the transfer of the battlefield of Belleau Woods to the Belleau Woods Memorial Association of America. Marshal Foch, General Harbord, Vice Admiral Andrews, the Marine detachment of the U. S. S. PITTSBURGH, and a great concourse of French and American citizens participated in the exercises. The Stars and Stripes were hoisted, the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," the Marine detachment presented arms, and all present saluted the flag. Memorable speeches were made by Marshal Foch and General Harbord.

Marshal Foch referring to the Battle of Belleau Woods, used the following significant words: "La Bataille des Bois de Belleau etait le berceau de la victoire" – "The Battle of Belleau Woods was the cradle of victory."

How fitting it is that this tablet should be erected here where stood the Old Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marine Corps, the place where the infant child in its swaddling clothes was nurtured, by some of the men who took part in that battle, and who knew the Corps and served with it when it was at the height of its strength and its power.

The little child has become a resplendent man, and that man stood undaunted in June, 1918, and hurled his javelin full in the face of his redoubtable foe.

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The struggle that began continued grimly and unceasingly for days, for nights, for weeks, and for months until the will of the enemy was broken and the supremacy of the American in skill, in endurance, and in valor was fully established.

All honor, all glory, and all praise be to those men and to all the other heroic Marines whose deeds and whose achievements during 150 years have brought imperishable renown to the Marine Corps and to America.

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